**Date Claimers**

**February**
26 My First Year Photographers
29 P,Y1 Old McDonald Farm visit

**March**
1 Mky Dis Basketball Trials
2 PV Soccer Trials
3 PV Rugby League
11 Walkerston Cross Country
11 P&C Disco
13,14 Choral Festival
16 Yr 5 Excursion, Greenmount
18 Mky D Soccer Trials
21 P&C Meeting, 6.30pm Hall
21 MD AFL Trials
22 Mky D Netball Trials
23 P Y 1,2A, 2B Gymnastics

**Spotlight**

Please ensure all Qparents details request forms are completed and returned to the school office.
Thank you to those who have already returned their form.

There have been cases of head lice in the school.
Please check your child, treat if necessary and inform your child’s teacher.

**Principal’s Report**—Mr J Feeney

I’m going to start my report this week by saying how proud I am of the staff, students and community which make up Walkerston State School. Our Quadrennial School Review was completed yesterday, and they were very complimentary about all the positive things which are happening for our children. I will be publishing their report on our website when we receive it in a few weeks time, but I would like to mention some of the positive things which came out of our discussions. The behaviour of the children and their focus on their learning was acknowledged as a strength of the school. The widespread support of the parents and community is something that I have always felt very fortunate to receive as Principal, so it was gratifying that the reviewers acknowledged how obvious this support was. I have also seen the hard work, professionalism and dedication from the staff, as did the reviewers. The reviewers also complimented the school leadership team, so thank-you to Mr Hurley, Ms Webb and Mrs Acutt for all your tireless work. With good leadership, good teaching, great students and a supportive community, Walkerston State School is a great place to be, and I look forward to being part of our journey towards even bigger and better things!

**Student Leaders**

Our school captains provide great support for me in bringing to me the thoughts of our student body to help me make the best decisions for our students. Currently, we have our four School Captains undertaking this task, but they will soon be joined by six house captains. On Friday after assembly, we will be hearing from our candidates about why they would make effective student leaders. Parents of those children are of course welcome to join us for the speeches.

**Volunteers**

We currently have a few parents and local community members volunteering with us, but we’re always looking for more! If you feel you could help out in the classrooms, in the tuckshop, or have particular skills you’d like to volunteer for us, you’d be most welcome. Contact the office if you would like to volunteer at our school.

**Priority 3: Communication**

As you all know, we are working at improving communication with parents at Walkerston. As part of this process, we have sent all families a form with a request for updated information. Even if you’re sure we have the most up-to-date address and contact details for you, please fill in the form anyway, as it’s a good opportunity for us to double check. We will use the information provided to enable better access to your children’s information through QParents as well as for texting about absences and emergency information. The system will only allow us to nominate one parent initially to act as the Administrator, and that parent can then invite other people to have access to the information. If this is problematic, please contact the office.

**My First Year Photographs**

To celebrate their first year of formal schooling, the Daily Mercury will be photographing the children from our 3 prep classes on Friday this week at 9:30 after assembly. Our uniforms look great in photos, so please make sure children are wearing them.
**Jarravale Farm Excursion**

On the 17th of February Years 2A, 2B and 23C visited the Jarravale Alpaca Farm. Here is what a few students had to say about the day.

**The Jarravale Alpaca Farm** ~ Yesterday 23C went to the alpaca farm at 10:00. 23C got on the bus and went.

First Josie explained the rules to us. Next Josie brought out Micky. Then we saw Horace and lots of different animals. When we fed the brown deer one of them chased me. After that we got to see Latte and Chai. We fed the animals carrots.

Finally we finished and I really want to go back.

By Tamsin Biddle.

**Jarravale** ~ Yesterday 23C got on a bus to go to the alpaca farm. First she told us the rules. We had to sit down and listen. Next we fed lots of animals at the farm. We were feeding the animals carrots. I want to go back again.

By Dayna Craig

**Jarravale Alpaca Farm ~** Yesterday class 23C went to the Jarravale Alpaca Farm for an excursion to see the animals. First our class sat under a shed and Josie explained the rules of the farm.

Then she introduced her helpers to us. Their names were Jess, Linda and Lowick. After that we went and saw Mickey. He was a macaw from the Amazon. He put up his wings like an eagle.

Next we went to Horace the cockatoo. He was white with a yellow crest. Then Josie took us to the other birds. There was a king parrot, a pale necked lorikeet and heaps of other birds. Josie fed them all with carrots.

Then we walked to Destiny, another pig. He was very dirty and we fed them carrots.

After that we went to the horses. Their names were Archie and Margaret. Archie was very dirty and we fed them carrots.

Next we walked to Destiny, another pig.

By Carson Janke.

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**Chaplaincy News**

Hi everyone, It’s Chappy here,

Breakfast Club is on every day at the hall until 8.40am. We continue to provide a healthy breakfast of cereal, toast fruit and juice for all students. We ask that students come to breakfast club as soon as they arrive at school so they have eaten and are ready to start lessons when the bell rings. We would like to thank Walkerston Bakery, Woolworths Walkerston and Kellogg’s for their continued support of this programme. If you have any spare fruit you would like to donate, I am in the hall from 8am every morning or you can leave it at the school office. All donations are greatly appreciated.

Reading Club will start on Monday, second break during play time. The students can come along and listen to a story, or read their home reading books to grade 5 & 6 helpers.

Board games club will start on Wednesday second break during play time. I do have some board games already. Parents are welcome to donate board games. Please leave them at the office.

Please support the Masonic Sausage sizzle at Walkerston Woolworths on Saturday. The funds raised are being donated to support our Chappies in the Pioneer Valley Region.

Although I have a room in C Block I tend to spend most of my time out and about. The office knows how to contact me. My hours are 8am to 1.30pm Monday and Wednesday, 8am to 11.30am on Friday and 8 To 9 for Breaky Club Tuesday and Thursday. I am always at the hall before school, feel free to come and chat with me.

Cheers and Blessings Chappy A.

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**Mackay & District Chess Tournament - Round 1 – 2016**

On Monday 22nd February 4 students competed in the first round of the Mackay & District Chess Tournament for 2016. Lara Pinkard, Emma Earsman, Naithaniel Maszczak and Jayden Richards had a very enjoyable and successful day of competition at Mackay Christian College. Naithaniel and Jayden received merit ribbons winning 5 out of 8 games and Lara and Emma were only half a point off also receiving ribbons. The team achieved the highest score Walkerston State School had ever previously received at competition, ranking 5th overall. All four students were extremely well behaved and represented the school at a high standard.
Student of the Week Awards for Week 3 & Week 4

Class PA
Savannah Brown—for being a very kind and caring classmate to others when they need a friend.

Class PB
Coban Squires—For a positive attitude to class and settling in well.
Sophie Vassallo—For an excellent effort with her writing. Well done Sophie!

Class P1C
Jordan Alderton—Congratulations on the terrific effort you put into your work. You’ve had a super week! Keep it up.
Zoe Burgess—You are a fantastic learner trying hard to sound out words and extend your sentences. WOW!

Class 1A
Amelia Ralph—For being organised and ready to start work. Well done Amelia!
Bronson So—For always trying his best and having a positive attitude!

Class 1B
Keeley Richards—For excellent participation in all activities. Well done Gemma!

Class 2A
Paige Barberel—For having lovely manners and a positive attitude to learning. Keep it up Paige!!

Isabella Harder—For always being very organised and putting a lot of effort into her school work.

Class 2B
Joshua Germanotta—For efficiently completing his work to a high standard and is always happy to help others. Fantastic.

Maddison Burgess—For being a conscientious student at all times.

Class 23C
Dayna Craig—Showing progress in all her school work. Keep up the good work, Dayna!

Tamsin Biddle—For always showing a conscientious attitude towards all her work. Keep it up, Tamsin!

Class 3A
Corbyn Valentine—For being an enthusiastic participant in class. Well done, Corbyn!

Clint Gall—For displaying excellent enthusiasm and knowledge with maths this week. Well Done!

Class 4B
Charlotte Harder—Always trying your best in all learning areas.

Class 5A
Alyssa Germanotta—For always applying new skills and concepts in her own work. What an achiever!
Keeley Robinson—For being a very helpful and responsible class member.

Class 5B
Hayley Draper—For striving to excel in her class work.

Harrison Leijen—For being a happy and enthusiastic member of our class.

Class 6B
Holly Cooper—For a terrific start to the year.
Letticia Parkins—For working hard in Maths this week.
Physical Education News

Gymnastics ~ Walkerston State School were lucky enough to receive Sporting Schools Federal Government Funding to allow our early childhood students to participate and improve their gross motor skills with the help of Mackay Gymnastics Association for Term 1. Prep, Year’s 1, 2A and 2B are heading to Mackay Gymnastics Gymnasium on the 23rd of March to consolidate all their skills they will be learning during this term.

Trials ~ Please check dates in the date claimer’s section as trials dates and have been reshuffled.

Fundraising ~ Please note that fundraising forms are due back on the 7th of March with all monies to the office. The fun run will be help on the 24th of March.

P&C News

We had a great roll up for the AGM and first General meeting for the P&C.
Thank you to all the parents who attended. We hope that by having out meetings at night it will give more parents a chance to attend.
The 2016 Walkerston P&C Office bearers are as follows:
President – Toni-Maree Dodd
Vice-President – Amanda Dickson
Secretary – Nikki McWhinney
Treasurer – Ken Jones
Assistant Treasurer – Kym Scammells.
You may have noticed that the water trough at the end of the undercover area now has a chiller attached.
This means there is chilled water available at all times. The P&C is pleased to have been able to offer this to the school.
We look forward to assisting the school with more projects as the year goes on.
The next meeting will be 6.30pm on March 21, in the P&C Room in the school hall.
All welcome!

Mirani Primary School P&C’s Annual

Friday 11th March
6:30pm Start | BBQ 5:30-6:30pm
Mirani Primary
School Undercover Area
Teams of 6 $5 per player
Adult Only Night | Child Minding TBC
A Night of Fun, Laughter & Fundraising!
Nominations Close Friday 4th March

Are you turning 12, 14 or 15 years old this year? If you are, then Wests Tigers JRL needs you!! Come and try Rugby League in a fun environment and make some mates. Contact Andrew Birch for more details: 0408 075 900
HERE US ROAR!